

Sunday, September 8, 2019

10:00 am

Theme: Welcome Back Sunday

VU = Voices United MV = More Voices

Welcome to Worship!

St. Thomas United is an open, affirming, accepting, and child friendly faith community. With children present we expect noise and movement, so there's no need to leave the Sanctuary when it happens. If parents feel more comfortable with their children in nursery care, we have a nursery for babies & children under 3 years of age – just follow the posted signs.

We hope that your worship experience will feed you and challenge you on your faith journey.

Please talk to a greeter or the folks wearing an "Ask Me" badge if there's anything you are unsure of or have a question about.

There are Hearing Assistance Sets available. Ask a greeter or Ask Me person to get one.

We project everything you will need to participate in worship. You will also find hymnbooks in your seats if you'd prefer to use them.

Newcomers – please fill out one of our Communication Cards. This is our first opportunity to be in touch with you so that we can begin to get to know one another.

Ministers: Rev. Tracy Robertson,
Rev. Justin McNeill

Office Administrator: Halyna Kinasevych

Music Team: Pam Bazinet, Barb Robertson,
Dick Worton, Erin MacLean-Berko

Accompanists: Kari Orosz, Kloria Wen

Youth Leaders: Heather Robertson,
Eden Middleton, Caitlin Hornbeck

Sunday School & Nursery Coordinator:
Erin MacLean-Berko

Office Email: office@stthomasunited.ca

Prelude: *Kari Orosz*

Welcome to our Livestream Worship Service

Acknowledgement of Treaty 7 & Region 3 Land

Greeting One Another & Announcements

Christ Candle Lighting

Introit: *Oh a Song Must Rise (Chorus, V3, Chorus)*

MV# 142

Call to Worship

Opening Prayer: *Holy one, in the midst of change and stories we drawn close to one another knowing that through community we support one another. Together we are invited to journey into this ever changing world knowing that you go with us. Help us to recognise your presence on the roads of life, as you are present in this place, we pray. Amen.*

Opening Hymn: *Come In, Come In and Sit Down*

VU# 395

Scripture: *Acts 2:43–47*

Ministry of Music : *Adult Choir: Make This Church a Welcome Place*

Children's Time: *Backpack Blessing*

The Message: *"Hot Seat with Tracy & Justin"*

Hymn: *And on This Path*

MV#8

Invitation to Open Hands

Opportunity to Open Hands

Offertory Hymn: *What Can I Do?*

MV# 191

Offertory Prayer: *Holy God, all good things have their beginnings in you, and so we offer these good things back to you. Help us to receive them and use them to create a community and a world in your image. Amen.*

Call to Prayer: *Come Touch Our Hearts (VS 1 & 4)*

MV# 12

Pastoral Prayers & Prayer of Jesus

VU# 959

Closing Hymn: *Called by Earth and Sky*

MV# 135

Commissioning

Benediction

Postlude: *Kari Orosz*

(A full version of this morning's liturgy is available
– just ask a Greeter or Ask Me host.)

START UP DATES TO REMEMBER

- * AM Fitness, Sept. 9
- * Book Club, every 2nd Wed, starting Sept 11
- * Youth Choir, starts Sept. 11
- * Junior Youth Group, Sept. 20
- * Marathon Bridge, Sept. 26
- * Orchestra, Sept. 9
- * Prayer Shawl Knitting Group, Sept. 11
- * Primetimers, Sept. 17
- * Quilting for Others, Sept. 12
- * Sunday School Registration & Blessing of the Backpacks, Sept. 8
- * Tuesday's Grace Quilters, Sept. 17

CALLED TO SERVE

Wanted: Volunteer Kitchen Supervisor: Come on board to help keep the kitchen areas of St. Thomas clean and tidy. You sign on for a month and periodically check on tidiness of fridges, freezers, cupboards, and labeling of goods left in same. (Please see the bulletin board in the Narthex, or read the article in the summer newsletter for complete review of this helpful position.) Contact Lori if interested or for more info. leweller@shaw.ca or 403-239-1705.

The ***Affirming Team*** is looking for new members who want to **boldly make a difference** as St. Thomas continues to live out its Open Hands, Open Hearts, and Open Minds. The team will have their first meeting after church on Sunday, September 15th. All interested in this affirming work are welcome to attend.

Leadership Opportunities at St. Thomas: We still have two teams needing help: Faith Formation and Finance. Please contact Tracy or Justin if any of these opportunities call to you.

Nursery and Sunday School Volunteers are needed. If you can help, please contact Erin MacLean-Berko at erinmacberko@gmail.com. We are running very short of Sunday school volunteers for and June. Please considering giving your time, or we will only be offering minimal classes.

The Prayer Shawl Knitting Group will begin gathering on Wed, Sept 11th at 1 pm in the Lounge. All are welcome.

UPCOMING

JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP SOCIAL EVENT

Junior Youth Group is for grades 4 - 6 preteens. They meet once a month for fun and community building. The children are encouraged to bring their friends. The first Junior Youth Group social evening of the season is on Friday, Sept. 20th at 6:30 pm. All youth attending are requested to fill out a registration and waiver form the first time they attend during a school year. Forms are available on the website at <http://stthomasunited.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Jr-Youth-Group-Registration-Package-2019-2020.pdf> or at the Church the night of the meeting.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BOOK CLUB

We meet at 7 pm the second Wednesday of each month. Our first meeting will be on Sept 11th at 7 pm in the St. Thomas library and we will be discussing "Becoming" by Michelle Obama. Note also that October's book is "Wildwood" by Elinor Florence. Everyone is welcome.

SENIORS WELLNESS DAY

Saturday, Sept. 28th, 9 am - 3 pm (Lunch Included) Come and check out booths, resources and great speakers! Booths include AHS; Home Care Assistance; Assisted Living & Seniors Residences; Driving Miss Daisy; Carewest; Veterans Assistance; CACG and many more. **Please call 403-241-0366 to register.**

ONGOING

Correspondence Club: Whether it be for activism, information, or just plain fun, writing a letter to someone helps you to be heard. We meet every 2nd and 4th Monday night from 7:00 - 8:30 pm in the Lounge or Library. All ages are welcome.

Hey, all you people, come and join our **AM Fitness and Fun** group. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings from 9:30 am to 10:30 am in the Mountainview Hall. Give it a try!

OUTREACH

Outreach Committee is having a **clothing drive** to help Calgary families who find themselves in less fortunate circumstances prepare for winter. Our main focus is for winter coats and warm clothing that is clean and in good condition. We also request gift cards that can be used to purchase winter boots. We will accept clothing for all ages. Donations will be sorted and sent to: BowWest; Avenue 15; Mennonite Central Committee; Women In Need Society and The Walk In Closet which accepts business clothing to help women reenter the workforce. **Please bring your donations to St Thomas on September 15, 22 & 29.** Thank you for supporting this initiative.

HOSPITALITY

Birthday Sundays: Everyone has a birthday! Everyone should celebrate! Everyone likes cake! So we have a Birthday Sunday once a month. Usually the last Sunday in the month, but these dates are sometimes adjusted depending on what else is happening in this very busy and active church. We will be sending around a sign up sheet. If you are able to bring a 9 x 13 cake, OR, if you aren't a baker, you can sign up for serving the cake. This popular event sponsored by your HOSPITALITY TEAM.

NAME TAG ORDER

Wearing a name tag is a great way to help each other put names and faces together. If you do not have a name tag, or yours has mysteriously disappeared, now is your opportunity. During the Sept 8th service, a clipboard will be circulated for you to place your order. There is no charge for them but donations are welcome. The order will be placed at the end of the month.

STAYING CONNECTED

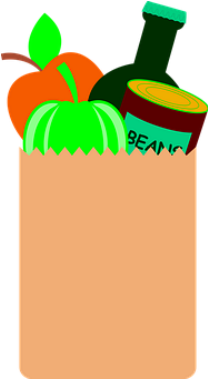
Twitter: We now have a new way to stay engaged with the goings-on at St. Thomas. Come and say hi. Go to https://twitter.com/st_thomas_yc.

Please Note: We Livestream most Worship Services. Please go to <https://livestream.com/StThomasUnited> to watch them online.

Sign Up for St. Thomas Announcements and e-Letters: Want to know what's going on? Sign up for announcements by filling out a Communication Card or contacting the office at (403)241-0366 or office@stthomasunited.ca.

Note: Any announcements, advertisements, or requests for non-church related products, services, or donations to organizations contained in this bulletin/newsletter should not be interpreted as recommendations, endorsements, or permissions by St. Thomas United Church.

FUNDRAISING



Grocery Gift Cards

Starting on [Sunday September 8](#), we will be selling grocery gift cards as a fundraiser for St. Thomas. We buy the cards in bulk at a discount and sell them to you at face value. If you buy a \$100 gift card, it costs you \$100 and it will buy \$100 worth of groceries. Cards for Safeway/Sobey's, Co-op and Superstore will be available in \$50 and \$100 denominations.

Payment is by cheque (made out to St. Thomas United Church), cash, or e-transfer to fundraising@stthomasunited.ca. Cards will be available the **first Sunday** of each month. For Autumn, 2019, they will be available [Sept 8](#), [Sept 15](#), [Oct 6](#), [Nov 3](#), and [Dec 1](#).

With your ongoing participation, it is hoped that the sale of Grocery Gift Cards will be a meaningful St. Thomas fundraiser. For further information, or to pre-order your cards, contact Richard Taylor-Kerr at fundraising@stthomasunited.ca

Thirty-One Gifts Fundraiser

Get a head start on your holiday shopping and help St Thomas at the same time! Kari Orosz will be hosting a Thirty-One Gifts fundraiser. This is a faith-based company that offers a variety of products including bags, thermals, home decor and accessories. 100% of the commission will be donated to the STUC general operating fund. Kari will bring catalogues and set up a table with sample items at the BBQ on Welcome Back Sunday (Sept 8). Orders can be placed directly through Kari (credit cards accepted as well as cash or cheque) or online through the STUC party link: <https://www.mythirtyone.ca/ca/en/2613508?pd=488182>

PLEASE NOTE it is very important to place the order through Kari Orosz in the St Thomas party in order to collect & track commissions for donations. Orders will be accepted until 9 pm on Sun, Sept 15. Happy shopping!

Coupon Books

The youth group is selling the Admazing coupon books again this year. They are \$25 each and will be for sale each Sunday before and after the service. You can also stop by the office to pick one up during office hours.

BEYOND ST. THOMAS

The Pink Unicorn: Thursday, Sept. 19th at 6:00 pm

This is a hilarious and heartfelt play put on by Lunchbox Theatre (160, 115 - 9th Ave SE) about a small-town Texas single mom dealing with her daughter coming out as genderqueer. The Affirming Team has arranged for anyone interested in seeing the play to join together on **Thursday, Sept. 19th at 6:00 pm**. Sign-up sheet is in the Narthex; please sign up by Sept. 9th. Tickets \$10 each. All welcome!

Right Relations Circle: Tuesday, Sept. 24th from 7-9 pm

Hillhurst's reconciliation journey has spanned many decades. Join us as we reflect upon the life of this church and its outreach to Indigenous people. We will look at past efforts and our current opportunities for sharing and community-building today. On Tues, Sept 24th from 7 - 9 pm at Hillhurst United Church, 1227 Kensington Close NW. For more information email: right.relations@hillhurstunited.com

Paths to Reconciliation: Sunday, Sept. 29th at 11:30 am

Our next Lunch & Learn is after the service on Sept 29th. Lunch will be served from approximately 11:30 am. At Noon we'll be screening a 45 minute film called **Three Feathers**, based on the graphic novel of the same name by Richard Van Camp. When harm is done, justice must heal. After committing a crime that devastated the innocence of their small community, three young men are sent to live on the land for nine months to explore the power of restorative justice. The Elders they live with reconnect them to a life that was taken from them long ago, but it is up to the boys to acquire the humility needed to return home and face their past. This event is free though donations towards expenses would be appreciated.

Orange Shirt Day: Monday, Sept 30th

Canadians wear orange in support of children and communities affected by the Indian Residential School System. Orange Shirt Day is reminder to all Canadians of the need to fulfill the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action.

14th Annual Sisters in Spirit Vigil: Friday, Oct. 4th, 11:30 am-1:30 pm

October 4th is a day where we honour the lives of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG). The violence experienced by Indigenous women and girls in Canada is a national tragedy. We must take the time to give thanks to the families who are our reason for demanding continued action. Family members, Indigenous community members, and concerned citizens gather for a vigil every Oct. 4th to honour the memory of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. Vigils take place in many communities across Canada as well as internationally. These gatherings serve to raise awareness and to provide support to families who have lost a loved one. Join us in honouring missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. "Silent No More" peace march and rally beginning at 11:30 am by Stephen Avenue Mall & 3rd St SW with a march to Olympic Plaza at noon for the official ceremony. Activities include: drumming, speakers, honour songs, traditional ceremony and open mic; bring your drums, shawls, rattles and noisemakers. For more information please call: (403) 531-1970 Ext. 200 or email: awotaan@awotaan.org.

BEYOND ST. THOMAS

Sisters in Spirit Memorial Feast & Commemoration: Friday, Oct. 4th, from 5-9 pm

Come and join our gathering for all people to commemorate the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls following the Sisters in Spirit Vigil. Come hear the stories, wisdom, and perspectives of Indigenous Women. This event is co-sponsored by Awo Taan, Hillhurst United Church, the consortium of United Church Right Relations committees, the McDougall Stoney Mission Society, the Urban Indigenous Circle and the Stoney Nakoda Nation. Hillhurst United Church, 1227 Kensington Close SW. For More Information, contact: right.relations@hillhurstunited.com

Blackfoot Crossing Day Trip: Oct. 5th

The Outreach Committee of Woodcliff United Church invites you to join us as we journey to the Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park at Cluny. The Centre is at the site where the Blackfoot Nation, with seven other tribes, signed Treaty 7 in 1877. There will be a special program for children and a tour lead by an Elder for the adults and youth. Carpool from St. Thomas will leave at 9:00 am. See Elaine Gray after service to sign up. **(Registration due by Sept. 14)** The cost per person if our group is 25 or more will be: Adults \$20, Youth (8 -17) \$12. Children under 7 are free. For more info please email Karen Kavanagh at karenkavanagh80@gmail.com

Indigenous Voices Showcase: Wednesday, Oct. 16th from 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Hosted by Shelagh Rogers, with Shane M. Chartrand; Cherie Dimaline; Alicia Elliott; Harold R. Johnson, and Richard Van Camp. The multi-genre standard bearers of contemporary Indigenous writing and cuisine, thanks to the participation of Chef Shane M. Chartrand (each guest will be welcomed with a taste from his new cookbook *tawâw*) — come together to share their current work and engage in a wide-ranging conversation with The Next Chapter's Shelagh Rogers. At Patricia A. Whelan Performance Hall, Central Library, 800 - 3rd Street SE. Cost: \$30 + tax For more information and for tickets: <https://wordfest.com/2019/event/indigenous-voices-showcase-2/>

The Calgary Alliance for the Common Good : Founding Assembly Thursday, Oct 17th at 7 pm

Membership of the Alliance will declare the establishment of the collective Alliance as a force for common good. At that Founding Assembly, all of the delegates of St. Thomas will be invited on stage at Knox United Church to show their support and state, as a group, why we are a part of CACG. Please come, show your support and demonstrate to the numerous City Councillors, MLA, and MPs at that Assembly, that many of their constituents are a part of this group. Please contact Karen Kavanagh at 403-286-8073 or karenkvanagh80@gmail.com or any member of the Outreach team.

Wordfest Presents Bob Joseph - Oct. 22nd, 5:00-6:15 pm

Shelagh Rogers, host of CBC Radio's The Next Chapter, sits down with Bob Joseph to talk about the Indian Act, and why every Canadian needs to understand its repercussions if reconciliation with Canada's Indigenous Peoples is to become a reality. Every business and community leader and every Calgarian, young or old, needs to hear this highly sought-after public speaker who has generously distilled a very broad and difficult topic into a practical vision for moving forward. The Hillhurst Right Relations Circle will be attending this event instead of having their usual Circle. Location: Patricia A. Whelan Performance Hall, Central Library, 800 - 3rd Street SE. Cost: \$20 + tax For more info and for tickets: <https://wordfest.com/2019/event/wordfest-presents-bob-joseph/>

THIS WEEK AT ST. THOMAS

Sunday, Sept 8

10:00 am Worship
12:00 pm Welcome Back BBQ
6:30 pm Twelve Step Group

Monday, Sept 9

9:30 am AM Fitness
1:00 pm Bridge Club
7:00 pm Mission & Outreach
7:00 pm Orchestra
7:00 pm Correspondence Club

Tuesday, Sept 10

4:15 pm Karate
7:00 pm Building & Property Committee

Wed, Sept 11

9:00 am Wilbury Gang
9:30 am AM Fitness
10:00 am Maple Leaf Brass
2:45 pm Open Art Studio
1:00 pm Prayer Shawl Knitters
7:00 pm Youth Advisory Committee
7:00 pm Youth Choir
7:00 pm Cool Choir
7:00 pm Book Club

Thursday, Sept 12

9:00 am Quilting for Others
11:30 am Sportball
4:15 pm Karate
6:00 pm Strummers
6:00 pm Children's Choir
6:30 pm Pathfinders
7:00 pm Rendezvous Planning Team
7:15 pm Adult Choir

Friday, Sept 13

9:30 am AM Fitness
10:45 am Sportball
1:00 pm Al Medinah Islamic Assembly
6:30 pm Youth

Saturday, Sept 14

8:30 am Karate

For a detailed and up to date calendar, please check out our website at: stthomasunited.ca/what-we-do/calendar/

Check the digital sign in the Narthex for location of activities.

Please feel free to take a bulletin with you after Worship.

Worship Services

Sept 8: Welcome Back Sunday

Sept 15: Transformation

Sept 22: Wrestling with God

Sept 29: Stewardship Campaign Kick-Off

Oct 6: Stewardship Campaign #2

Oct 13: Stewardship Campaign #3

Oct 20: Stewardship Campaign #4

Oct 27: Stewardship Campaign #5



Through our gifts we commit ourselves to live out the mission and ministry of the church. Please give generously to the **Mission and Service Fund** to make this possible.



St. Thomas is an **Affirming Ministry** within The United Church of Canada. LGBTQ2 people are whole people and full members in this community of faith.



The United Church of Canada

St. Thomas is proud to be part of the United Church of Canada which ministers to close to 3 million people in 3,500 congregations across the country.

Today's Service

We give great thanks to all who participated in making today's worship service a reality.

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